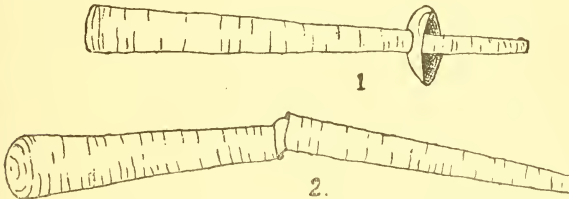


## NOTES.

NOTE ON *FISTULANA MUMIA* PERFORATING A VALVE OF A *DOSINIA*. (Read 14th December, 1906.)—In the fifth volume of these "Proceedings" (p. 345) Messrs. Sowerby and Fulton gave a brief notice of a specimen of this species, which was shown to have bored its way through a *Mitra*. Another instance of the perforating power of the *Fistulana* has for many years been in the British Museum. A small valve of a species of *Dosinia*, 15 mm. in length, has been bored through by a *Fistulana* (Fig. 1), and is firmly attached to the tube about three-quarters of an inch from the posterior



end. The specimen was purchased at the sale of Captain Belcher's collection in 1851. No locality accompanies it, but it was probably obtained somewhere in the China Sea, where he collected so largely. The *Dosinia* may be the young of *D. excisa*, Chemn., as it has the very large superficial lunule so characteristic of that species.

A curious reparation of a tube after being broken is shown in Fig. 2. The specimen, now in the Museum, came from Singapore, and formed part of the collection of the late Surgeon-Colonel Samuel Archer.

E. A. SMITH.

NOTE ON *PALUDESTRINA JENKINSI*. (Read 9th November, 1906.)—The British Museum received from Mr. H. F. Fernor last October about 200 specimens of this species which had been taken from water-pipes in South London. They seemed, at first, so unlike the typical form of the species that I was inclined to regard them specifically distinct. On comparing them, however, with specimens from the North of Ireland, received from Mr. R. Welch, certain individuals were met with which appeared to link these shells with *P. Jenkinsi*. The specimens were found in a 4 inch main in Grummant Road, Peckham, a district of South London. These pipes have been laid down between thirty and forty years, but we do not know how long the shells have existed in them or how they got into such a position. The water is drawn from the Thames at Hampton, and there passed through the sand filter-beds, thence is conveyed to the Nunhead reservoirs, and then pumped into the service-mains. The service is on the continuous supply system, so that the pressure in the pipes would be about 40 pounds to the inch. There would probably not be a great flow of water through this particular main, as it was closed at

one end of the street, and connected at the other with a 12 inch main in Peckham Road. No specimens have been observed in the latter or any other pipes, which is very curious.

All the specimens, without exception, are in perfectly clean condition, showing that there was very little mineral or vegetable deposit in the water, although evidently sufficient vegetable matter upon the pipes for the animals to feed upon.

The species is viviparous, according to Mr. Charles Oldham, who collected many specimens in Cheshire containing "large numbers of fry ready for exclusion" (Journ. of Conch., vol. x, p. 42), and Messrs. Jackson and Taylor also observe that the acute-spined species of this genus are viviparous (op. cit., vol. xi, p. 11). It therefore becomes quite certain that the species was not introduced into the pipes in the ova-state, but that either young or more adult shells had by some means found an entrance. It is well known that the species apparently increases at an enormous rate, for localities have been described as "taken over" by it in myriads where the previous year not one was seen (Stubbs, op. cit., vol. x, p. 284). It is therefore quite probable that the species has not long existed in this subterranean locality.

These shells differ from typical specimens in being more graceful and slender, and in having the spire longer and the aperture smaller. Length 4.5, diameter 2.25 mm.; length of a typical specimen 5 mm., diameter 3 mm. A small variety of the species was observed by Mr. A. Mayfield last Autumn in Oulton Broad, Suffolk, "in countless thousands." Specimens kindly presented by him to the British Museum measure only about 3.75 mm. in length and 2 in breadth.

Some specimens similar to those from the water-pipes were sent in 1905 to the Museum by the London Hydraulic Power Company, having been found in an open tank upon the top of a building in Blomfield Street, E.C. Some shorter examples, much coated with a rusty deposit, were submitted by the same company. These occurred in a high-pressure water-meter at Middleton's Wharf, Wapping. All the specimens received were dead shells.

E. A. SMITH.

#### GLESSULA PARABILIS (Benson).

*Achatina parabilis*, Benson, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., 1856, vol. xviii, p. 96.

*Glessula fusca*, H. Adams, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1868, p. 15, pl. iv, figs. 10, 10a.

*Hab.*—Ceylon.

This species was accidentally omitted from my paper in the last part of the "Proceedings." Its position in the series is between Nos. 26 and 27 on p. 165.

R. H. BEDDOME.